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Municipal Code of Chicago

[**TITLE 4 BUSINESSES, OCCUPATIONS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**](#)
[**CHAPTER 4.144 WEAPONS**](#)

CHAPTER 4-144

WEAPONS

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ARTICLE I. DEADLY WEAPONS

4-144-010 License – Required.

It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in the business of selling, or to sell or give away, any pistol, revolver or other firearm, dagger, stiletto, billie, derringer, bowie knife, dirk, stun gun or taser, as defined in Section 24-1 of the Illinois Criminal Code, 720 ILCS 5/24-1, or other deadly weapon which can be carried or concealed on the person, without securing a weapons dealer license. The license required by this chapter shall be in addition to any other license required by law.

(Added Coun. J. 12-9-92, p. 25465; Amend Coun. J. 4-16-97, p. 42588)

4-144-020 License – Application.

An application for a weapons dealer license shall be made in conformity with the general requirements of this Code relating to applications for licenses. The commissioner of business affairs and consumer protection shall approve said application before a license shall be issued.

(Added Coun. J. 12-9-92, p. 25465; Amend Coun. J. 4-16-97, p. 42588; Amend Coun. J. 5-9-07, p. 105047, § 8; Amend Coun. J. 11-19-08, p. 47220, Art. V, § 5)

4-144-030 License – Fee.

The fee for a weapons dealer license shall be as set forth in Section [4-5-010](#).

(Added Coun. J. 12-9-92, p. 25465; Amend Coun. J. 4-16-97, p. 42588; Amend Coun. J. 11-15-06, p. 92532, § 1; Amend Coun. J. 1-13-10, p. 83191, § 1)

4-144-040 Daily report required – Sales or gifts.

Every person dealing in the aforementioned deadly weapons shall make out and deliver to the superintendent of police every day before the hour of twelve noon, a legible and correct report of every sale or gift made under authority of his license during the preceding 24 hours, which report shall contain the date of such sale or gift, the name of the purchaser or donee with his or her address and age, the number, kind, description and price of such weapon, the number of the purchaser's permit, and the purpose given by such person for the purchase of such weapon, which report shall be substantially in the following form:

- Number of permit
- Number of weapon
- Name of purchaser
- Address of purchaser
- Age of purchaser
- Kind or description of weapon
- For what purpose purchased
- Price

(Added Coun. J. 12-9-92, p. 25465; Amend Coun. J. 4-16-97, p. 42588)

4-144-050 Register required.

Every person dealing in the aforementioned deadly weapons or ammunition at retail, within the city, shall keep a register of all such weapons and ammunition sold, loaned, rented or given away by him. Such register shall contain the date of the sale, loaning, renting or gift, the number of the permit, the number of the weapon, the name and age of the person to whom the weapon or ammunition is sold, loaned, rented or given, the quantity of ammunition, the price of each item, and the purpose for which it is purchased or obtained. The said register shall be in the following form (see diagram for Section [4-144-050](#)). Such register shall be kept open for the inspection of the police at all reasonable times during business hours.

(Added Coun. J. 12-9-92, p. 25465; Amend Coun. J. 9-14-94, p. 56287)

Diagram for Section [4-144-050](#)

Date of sale	Number of superintendent of police permit	Number of weapon	To whom sold, loaned, rented, or given	Age of purchaser or person obtaining weapon	Kind and description of weapon or ammunition
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4-144-060 Restrictions on sales or gifts.

It shall be unlawful for any person to sell, barter or give away to any person within the city, any deadly weapon mentioned in Section [4-144-010](#), except to licensed dealers and to persons who have secured a permit for the purchase of such articles from the superintendent of police as hereinafter required. This section shall not apply to sales made of such articles which are to be delivered or furnished outside the city.

(Added Coun. J. 12-9-92, p. 25465)

4-144-061 Sale of certain handgun ammunition prohibited.

Except as allowed by subsection (e) of Section [8-20-170](#) of this Code, it shall be unlawful for any person to sell, offer for sale, expose for sale, barter or give away to any person within the city, any ammunition of the following calibers and types:

- .45 automatic
- .380 automatic
- .38 special
- .357 magnum
- .25 caliber
- .22 caliber, including .22 long
- 9 millimeter

Any other ammunition, regardless of the designation by the manufacturer, distributor or seller, that is capable of being used as a substitute for any of the foregoing.

(Added Coun. J. 9-14-94, p. 56287)

4-144-062 Sale of handguns without childproofing or safety devices prohibited.

Except as allowed by subsection (e) of Section [8-20-170](#) of this Code, it shall be unlawful for any person to sell, barter or give away to any person any handgun which does not contain:

(1) A safety mechanism to hinder the use of the handgun by unauthorized users. Such devices shall include, but shall not be limited to, trigger locks, combination handle locks, and solenoid use-limitation devices, and

(2) A load indicator device that provides reasonable warning to potential users such that users even unfamiliar with the weapon would be forewarned and would understand the nature of the warning.

Safety mechanism means a design adaption or nondetachable accessory that lessens the likelihood of unanticipated use of the handgun by other than the owner of the handgun and those specifically authorized by the owner to use the handgun.

A trigger lock means a device that when locked in place by means of a key, prevents a potential user from pulling the trigger of the handgun without first removing the trigger lock by use of the trigger lock's key.

A combination handle lock means a device that is part of the handgun which precludes the use of the handgun unless the combination tumblers are properly aligned.

A solenoid use-limitation device means a device which precludes, by use of a solenoid, the firing of the handgun unless a magnet of the appropriate strength is placed in proximity to the handle of the weapon.

A load indicator means a device which plainly indicates that a bullet is placed in the handgun in a way that pulling the trigger or otherwise handling the handgun may result in detonation.

(Amend Coun. J. 2-7-97, p. 38729)

4-144-070 Permit required when – Issuance conditions.

It shall be unlawful for any person to purchase any deadly weapon mentioned in Section [4-144-010](#) which can be concealed on the person, without first securing from the superintendent of police a permit so to do. Before any such permit is granted, an application in writing shall be made therefor, setting forth in such application the name, address, age, height, weight, complexion, nationality and other elements of identification of the person desiring such permit, and the applicant shall present such evidence of good character as the superintendent of police at his discretion may require.

The superintendent of police shall refuse such permit to any person under 18 years of age, any narcotic addict, any person who has been convicted of a felony under the laws of this state or any other jurisdiction within five years from release from penitentiary or within five years of conviction if penitentiary sentence has not been imposed, and any person who has been released from a mental institution or from the custody of the Illinois Youth Commission within the last five years, or is mentally retarded. Otherwise, in case he shall be satisfied that the applicant is of good moral character, it shall be the duty of the superintendent of police to grant such permit.

(Added Coun. J. 12-9-92, p. 25465)

4-144-080 Sales display restrictions.

It shall be unlawful for any person to exhibit for sale in show cases or show windows, on counters or in any other public manner, any deadly weapon mentioned in Section [4-144-010](#), or to display any signs, posters, cartoons, or display cards suggesting the sale of any such deadly weapons, or any ammunition whose sale is prohibited pursuant to Section [4-144-061](#) of this Code.

(Added Coun. J. 12-9-92, p. 25465; Amend Coun. J. 9-14-94, p. 56287)

4-144-090 Reserved.

Editor's note – Coun. J. 4-16-97, p. 42588, amended and renumbered this section as § [4-144-260](#).

ARTICLE II. GUNSMITHS

4-144-100 License – Required.

It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in the business of repairing any pistol, revolver, derringer or other firearm which can be concealed on the person without securing a weapons dealer license so to do.

(Added Coun. J. 12-9-92, p. 25465; Amend Coun. J. 4-16-97, p. 42588)

4-144-110 Reserved.

Editor's note – Coun. J. 4-16-97, p. 42612, repealed § 4-144-110, which pertained to license and application.

4-144-120 Reserved.

Editor's note – Coun. J. 4-16-97, p. 42612, as corrected by Coun. J. 9-14-05, p. 55282, repealed § 4-144-120, which pertained to license and application.

4-144-130 Daily report required – Repairs.

Every person licensed under this chapter shall make out and submit to the superintendent of police every day, before twelve noon, a legible and correct report of each firearm received for repair during the preceding 24 hours,

which report shall contain the date, name, physical description, age, address and occupation of the owner of such firearm, the type of weapon, its make, and the serial number and bore length of such weapon, which report shall be substantially in the following form:

Date
Name of owner
Physical description of owner
Age of owner
Address of owner
Occupation of owner
Type of weapon
Make of weapon
Serial number
Bore and length of weapon

(Added Coun. J. 12-9-92, p. 25465; Amend Coun. J. 4-16-97, p. 42588)

ARTICLE III. AIR RIFLES AND TOY WEAPONS

4-144-140 License required when.

It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in the business of selling or to sell or to give away any air rifle or air gun, or any toy firearms or other toy in the nature of a firearm in which any explosive substance can be used, without securing a weapons dealer license, and no person having secured such license shall sell or give away any such weapon to any person within the city who has not secured a permit from the superintendent of police to purchase such weapon in the manner hereinafter provided.

(Added Coun. J. 12-9-92, p. 25465; Amend Coun. J. 4-16-97, p. 42588)

4-144-145 Replica air guns – Sale or transfer prohibited.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in the business of selling or to sell, exhibit for sale, give away or otherwise transfer any replica air gun in the city of Chicago. For purposes of this article, "replica air gun" means and includes any air gun, air pistol, air rifle, spring gun, spring pistol, BB gun, pellet gun or any other implement that a person could reasonably perceive as an actual firearm but that is not a firearm, and that is capable of firing or discharging a projectile constructed of hard plastic, steel, lead or other hard materials with a force that reasonably is expected to cause bodily harm.

(Added Coun. J. 10-4-06, p. 87431, § 1)

4-144-150 Reserved.

Editor's note – Coun. J. 4-16-97, p. 42588, as corrected by Coun. J. 9-14-05, p. 55267, repealed § 4-144-150, which pertained to license – application.

4-144-160 Reserved.

Editor's note – Coun. J. 4-16-97, p. 42588, as corrected by Coun. J. 9-14-05, p. 55267, repealed § 4-144-160, which pertained to license – fee.

4-144-170 Daily report required.

Every person licensed under this chapter shall make out and deliver to the superintendent of police every day, before the hour of twelve noon, a legible and correct report of every sale or gift made under authority of said license to sell the kind of weapons or other articles named in Section [4-144-140](#) during the preceding 24 hours, which report shall contain the date of such sale or gift, the name of the purchaser or donee with his or her address and age, the number, kind, description and price of such weapon or other article, the number of the purchaser's permit, and the purpose for the purchase of such weapon or other article, which report shall be substantially in the following form:

Number of permit
Number of weapon or article
Name of purchaser
Address of purchaser
Age of purchaser
Kind or description of weapon or other article
For what purpose purchased
Price

(Added Coun. J. 12-9-92, p. 25465)

4-144-180 Permit – Required.

It shall be unlawful for any person to purchase any air rifle or air gun, or any toy firearms or other toy in the nature of a firearm in which any explosive substance can be used, without first securing from the superintendent of police a permit so to do. Before any such permit is granted, an application in writing shall be made therefor, setting

forth in such application, the name, address, age, height, weight, complexion, nationality and other elements of identification of such person desiring such permit. Such application shall also contain a recommendation from two persons who shall appear to be taxpayers residing within the city that the permit shall issue.

(Added Coun. J. 12-9-92, p. 25465)

4-144-190 Replica firearms and pellet guns.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to purchase, possess, use, sell, give away or otherwise transfer, or to engage in the business of selling or to exhibit for sale, a replica firearm, paint pellet or paint pellet gun in the City of Chicago, except as provided in subsection (c) of this section.

(b) For the purposes of this chapter, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

“Paint pellet” means a pellet or projectile of paint which explodes upon impact.

“Paint pellet gun” means any firearm, toy firearm or toy in the nature of a firearm which is powered by compressed gas and which fires paint pellets.

“Replica firearm” means any device, object or facsimile made of plastic, wood, metal or any other material, that a person could reasonably perceive as an actual firearm but that is incapable of being fired or discharged, except that the term shall not include any replica of an antique firearm, as defined in Section [8-20-030](#)(b) of this Code. Each such replica firearm shall have as an integral part, permanently affixed, a blaze orange plug inserted in the barrel of such replica firearm. Such plug shall be recessed no more than six millimeters from the muzzle end of the barrel of such firearm.

(c) The manufacture, marketing, distribution, sale and possession of replica firearms are permitted if the devices are manufactured, marketed, distributed, sold or held (1) solely for subsequent transportation in intrastate, interstate or foreign commerce, or (2) solely for use in theatrical productions, including motion picture, television and stage productions. Such devices shall not be displayed to the general public or sold for other use in the city. The use or possession of a paint pellet or paint pellet gun is permitted if the use or possession is solely within premises licensed as a public place of amusement; or if the use or possession is solely for the purpose of transporting the paint pellet or paint pellet gun to or from those premises by the licensee or agent or employee of the licensee, or by a common carrier, for purposes of initial delivery, repair or disposal of the paint pellet or paint pellet gun.

(d) Any person who violates the provisions of this section, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than \$100.00 nor more than \$500.00 for each offense. Any such violation may also be punishable as a misdemeanor by incarceration in a penal institution other than a penitentiary for up to six months under the procedures set forth in Section 1-2-1.1 of the Illinois Municipal Code as amended, and in the Illinois Code of Criminal Procedure, Illinois Revised Statutes, Chapter 38, Sections 100-1 et seq. (1985), as amended, in a separate proceeding. All actions seeking the imposition of fines only shall be filed as quasi-criminal actions subject to the provisions of the Illinois Code of Civil Procedure, Illinois Revised Statutes, Chapter 110, Section 1-101, et seq. (1985), as amended. Each purchase, use, sale, gift or transfer of any such replica firearm, paint pellet or paint pellet gun shall be deemed a separate and distinct offense, and each day a person unlawfully engages in the business of selling or exhibits for sale any such replica firearm, paint pellet or paint pellet gun shall be deemed a separate and distinct offense.

(Added Coun. J. 12-9-92, p. 25465; Amend Coun. J. 11-2-94, p. 58607)

4-144-195 Replica military style weapons.

It shall be unlawful for any person to purchase, possess, use, sell, give away or otherwise transfer, or to engage in the business of selling or to exhibit for sale, any replica rocket propelled grenade launcher, bazooka, artillery piece, grenade, mine, bomb, or items similar to weapons designed and manufactured for military purposes or replicas thereof, in the City of Chicago.

Any person who violates this section shall be fined not less than \$100.00 nor more than \$500.00 for each offense. (Added Coun. J. 7-27-05, p. 54335, § 2)

4-144-200 Granting of permit – Conditions.

It shall be the duty of the superintendent of police to refuse such permit to any person having been convicted of any crime, and any minor. Otherwise, if the applicant is of good moral character, the superintendent of police shall grant such permit upon the payment of a fee of \$1.00.

(Added Coun. J. 12-9-92, p. 25465)

4-144-210 Sale or transfer to minors prohibited.

It is unlawful for any dealer to sell, lend, rent, give or otherwise transfer an air rifle to any person under the age of 18 years where the dealer knows the person to be under 18 years of age, or where such dealer has failed to make reasonable inquiry relative to the age of such person and such person is under 18 years of age.

It is unlawful for any person to sell, lend or otherwise transfer any air rifle to any person under 18 years of age.

(Added Coun. J. 12-9-92, p. 25465)

4-144-220 Sales display restrictions.

It shall be unlawful for any person to exhibit for sale in show cases, or show windows, on counters, or in any public manner, any air rifle or air gun, or any toy firearm or other toy in the nature of a firearm in which any explosive substance can be used, or to display any signs, posters, cartoons or display cards suggesting the sale of any such weapon or firearm.

(Added Coun. J. 12-9-92, p. 25465)

4-144-230 Alteration restricted.

No person shall alter any air rifle, air gun, toy firearm or toy in the nature of a firearm in such a way that it can fire any type of projectile other than that which it was designed by its manufacturer to fire.

(Added Coun. J. 12-9-92, p. 25465)

4-144-240 License – Revocation conditions.

When the license of any said licensee shall be revoked, no other such license shall be issued to such licensee for a period of three years thereafter.

(Added Coun. J. 12-9-92, p. 25465)

ARTICLE IV. VIOLATION OF CHAPTER PROVISIONS

4-144-250 Violation – Penalties.

Any person violating Section [4-144-010](#) or Section [4-144-060](#) or Section [4-144-061](#) of this chapter shall be fined not less than \$500.00 nor more than \$1,000.00 for a first offense and \$1,000.00 for each subsequent offense. Any person violating any other provision of this chapter shall be fined not less than \$250.00 nor more than \$500.00 for a first offense and not less than \$500.00 nor more than \$1,000.00 for each subsequent offense. Each purchase, sale or gift of any weapon or article mentioned in this chapter shall be deemed a separate offense.

(Added Coun. J. 12-9-92, p. 25465; Amend Coun. J. 9-14-94, p. 56287)

4-144-260 License – Revocation.

In case the mayor shall determine that a licensee has violated any provision of this chapter, he shall revoke the weapons dealer license issued to such person, and the money paid for such license shall be forfeited to the city. No other such license shall be issued to such licensee for a period of three years thereafter.

(Amend Coun. J. 4-16-97, p. 42588)

4-144-270 Severability.

If any section, subsection, paragraph, or part of this ordinance is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid by any final court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity or effectiveness of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

(Added Coun. J. 7-27-05, p. 54335, § 2)

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